

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 DHA-02 ORM-02 ARA-06

EA-07 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /111 W

-----031727Z 056133 /46

O R 031552Z JUN 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3865

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1757

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, MILI, PINS, RH, MZ

SUBJECT: UNSYG WALDHEIM'S COMMENTS ABOUT RHODESIAN INCURSION
INTO MOZAMBIQUE

SUMMARY: UNSYG WALDHEIM JUNE 2 TOLD AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND
MCHENRY THAT WITH WITHDRAWAL OF RHODESIAN FORCES FROM
MOZAMBIQUE OVERNIGHT HE NOW SAW NO NEED FOR FURTHER STATEMENTS
BY HIM OR A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. HE DESCRIBED HIS CONTACTS
WITH UK FOREIGN SECRETARY OWENS AND OTHERS IN THE DIPLOMATIC
COMMUNITY; SAID HE WOULD HAVE BEEN WILLING TO MOVE UNDER
ARTICLE 99 OF THE CHARTER IN CALLING A SC MEETING; AND
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JUDGED THE LACK OF MOZAMBIQUE INTEREST IN PURSUING UN
CONSIDERATION OF THE INCIDENT AGAINST
THE BACKGROUND OF PREVIOUS MOZAMBIQUAN RESISTANCE TO TAKING
THEIR PROBLEMS TO THE UN AS BEING EMBARRASSING, USELESS AND
CONTRARY TO PRINCIPLE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN PRELIMINARY CONVERSATION DURING CALL ON HIM BY

AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND MCHENRY JUNE 2, UNSYG WALDHEIM SHOWED LIVELY INTEREST IN RHODESIA'S MILITARY INCURSION INTO MOZAMBIQUE. HE TOLD OF TALKING WITH UK FOREIGN SECRETARY OWENS IN PARIS, TANZANIAN PERM REP SALIM AND OTHER AFRICANS IN NEW YORK, AND SC PRESIDENT BARTON OF CANADA AS THE INCIDENT PROGRESSED. WITH REPORTS THAT RHODESIAN TROOPS HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM MOZAMBIQUE, WALDHEIM SAID HE HAD CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS NO FURTHER NEED FOR A STATEMENT BY HIM.

2. WALDHEIM AGREED WITH YOUNG THAT THERE IS NO CLEAR MILITARY OR POLITICAL RATIONALE FOR THE RHODESIAN ATTACK. HE MENTIONED PRIOR DISCUSSION (SONNY RAMPHAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH) OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A PEACEKEEPING FORCE OF COMMONWEALTH BLACKS BEING USEFUL IN PREVENTING SUCH OUTBREAKS OF MILITARY VIOLENCE IN RHODESIA. SUCH A CONCEPT MIGHT EVEN BE USEFUL IN A TRANSITION PERIOD THERE, HE SAID, ALTHOUGH RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER SMITH SHOWS NO SIGH OF GIVING UP. WALDHEIM EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THE ANTI-US/UK STATEMENT BY MUGABE AND SAID AFRICANS WITH WHOM HE HAD SPOKEN HAD JUDGED THAT IT WAS A POLITICAL STATEMENT DESIGNED TO BOLSTER MUGABE'S LEADERSHIP POSITION AMONG THE LIBERATION FORCES.

3. YOUNG SAID IT WAS UNCLEAR HOW MUCH OF MUGABE'S PURPOSE WAS BASED ON DISTRUST OF THE WEST AND HOW MUCH REFLECTED A NEED FOR SOVIET AND CUBAN MILITARY SUPPORT. HE SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD ANYONE SAY THE ARMED STRUGGLE IN RHODESIA IS GOING WELL. FORMER RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER GARFIELD TODD HAD TOLD YOUNG THAT THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS ARE ABLE TO MOVE FREELY IN MANY AREAS WITHIN RHODESIA, SO THE RAID INTO

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MOZAMBIQUE COULD HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED PARTLY BY A NEED TO BOLSTER DOMESTIC MORALE. TODD THOUGHT THE RAID WAS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS, NOT STRENGTH.

4. WALDHEIM SAID THE JUNE SC PRESIDENT, AMBASSADOR BARTON OF CANADA, HAD INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NO CONCRETE NEED FOR A SC MEETING ON THE RHODESIAN RAID. HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE BEEN WILLING TO CALL FOR A SC MEETING UNDER ARTICLE 99 OF THE CHARTER, BUT HE COULD NOT ACT UNTIL HE LEARNED THE ATTITUDE OF THE MAZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT. ALL EFFRORTS TO CONTACT MACHEL AND CHISSANO WERE UNAVAILING, AND WE STILL HAVE NO RESPONSE FROM THEM. SALIM HAD EVEN CALLED DAR ES SALAAM IN AN EFFORT TO GET CONTACT WITH MAPUTO THORUGH HIS OWN GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT TOO HAD FAILED.

5. WALDHEIM OBSERVED THAT MOZAMBIQUE IN THE PAST HAS SHOWN NO EAGERNESS TO TAKE THEIR PROBLEMS TO THE UN. ITS ATTITUDE PARTLY STEMEED FROM THE EMBARRASSMENT INHERENT IN REVEALING THE WEAKNESS OF THE REGIME AND A FEELING THAT UN CONSIDERATION OF

THE PROBLEM WOULD OFFER NO CONCRETE HELP. MAINLY, HOWEVER,
MOZAMBIQUE HAS ADHERED TO ITS PRINCIPLED REFUSAL TO DEAL WITH
THE SMITH REGIME IN RHODESIA IN ANY WAY.
YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Review Markings:
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